# **NORTH KOREA**







#### INTRODUCTION

An independent kingdom for much of its history, following World War II, Korea was split with the northern half coming under Soviet-sponsored communist control. North Korea, under its founder President KIM II Sung, adopted a policy of diplomatic and economic "self-reliance" as a check against outside influence. KIM Jong II, was officially designated as his father's successor in 1980, followed in 2011 by current leader KIM Jong Un.

#### GOVERNMENT

#### **Chief of State**

Supreme People's Assembly President CHOE Ryong Hae

## **Head of Government**

State Affairs Commission Chairman KIM Jong Un

## **Government Type**

dictactorship, single-party state; official state ideology of "Juche" or "national self-reliance"

#### Capital

Pyongyang

#### Legislature

unicameral Supreme People's Assembly or Ch'oego Inmin Hoeui (687 seats)

#### **GEOGRAPHY**

#### Area

Total: 120,538 sq km Land: 120,408 sq km Water: 130 sq km

#### Climate

temperate, with rainfall concentrated in summer; long, bitter winters

#### **Natural Resources**

coal, iron ore, limestone, magnesite, graphite, copper, zinc, lead, precious metals, hydropower

as of October 2021

#### **ECONOMY**

#### **Economic Overview**

one of the last centrally planned economies; hard hit by COVID-19, crop failures, international sanctions, and isolationist policies; declining growth and trade, and heavily reliant on China; poor exchange rate stability; economic data integrity issues

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$40 billion (2015 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$1,700 (2015 est.)
Industries - military products, machine building, electric power, chemicals, mining (coal, iron ore, limestone, magnesite, graphite, copper, zinc, lead, precious metals), metallurgy, textiles, food processing, tourism

**Agricultural products -** rice, maize, vegetables, apples, potatoes, cabbages, fruit, sweet potatoes, beans, soybeans

Exports \$222 million (2018 est.)

watch components, fake hair, iron alloys, instructional models, tungsten (2019)

partners: China 67%, Suriname 6% (2019)

Imports \$2.32 billion (2018 est.)

clothing, apparel, soybean oil, rice, wheat products, clocks/watches (2019)

partners: China 96% (2019)

## **PEOPLE & SOCIETY**

#### **Population**

25.8 million (July 2021 est.)

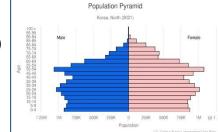
#### **Population Growth**

0.49% (2021 est.)

## **Ethnicity**

racially homogeneous; there is a small Chinese

community and a few ethnic Japanese



## Language

Korean

## Religion

traditionally Buddhist and Confucianist, some Christian and syncretic Chondogyo (Religion of the Heavenly Way)

#### Urbanization

urban population: 62.6% of total population (2021)

rate of urbanization: 0.85% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)